LA., THURSDAY MORNING,

JURORS DECIDE AGAINST BLANKE

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70

Rule No Libel in Time Magazine Article

A federal court jury held in favor of Time Lnc. Wednesday in a $300,000 libel suit brought by Vial J. Blanke Sr., a former Jefferson Parish councilman.

Blanke claimed in his suit that he was libeled in a caption which appeared Sept. 8, 1967, in Life magazine, a Time publication, in connection with a story about alleged organized crime in Louisiana.

A contributor to the article was New Orleans free-lance writer David L. Chandler.

The caption was published along with a picture purportedly taken at the Mist Restaurant and Lounge on Hwy. 90 a few miles west of the Mississippi River.

The photo showed Blanke seated at a table with Joseph Armenio, operator of the place, and allegedly an ally of rackets figure Carlos Marcello.

In the caption it was alleged that Blanke and Armenio were discussing a fund to back the campaign of Vincent Ebeier for sheriff of Jefferson Parish in the 1967 Democratic primary election.

The jury in Judge Alvin B. Rubin's section of Federal District Court was given the case for deliberation at 10:55 a.m. Wednesday and returned the verdict at 5:53 p.m. The trial began Monday.

Judge Rubin gave the case to the jury on six questions involving the law of libel.

The first question was "Do you find that any part of what was published about Vial Blanke in Life in its Sept. 8, 1967, issue contained false statements about Mr. Blanke?"

This was answered "No," making consideration of the other questions unnecessary.